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The LABOUR ORGANISER

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A Publicity Expert asks—

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—and makes some
constructive proposals

Also—

***“Capturing the
New Generation”***

by a Trade Union Leader

ESTABLISHED 1920

Labour Party List of D.L.P. Alterations (November)

Index No.	Description.	Name of Organisation.	Present Secretary and Address.
D8	CD	Aylesbury D.L.P.	Mrs. A. E. GATER, 23, Nightingale Road, Southcourt, Aylesbury, Bucks.
F26	CD	Bodmin D.L.P.	Mr. A. H. HITCHENS, 5, Station Road, Menheniot, Liskeard, Cornwall.
A66	CD	Barnard Castle D.L.P.	Miss BELLENGER, Hill View, Langley Park, Durham.
F103	SB	Gloucester D.L.P.	Coun. J. E. WALSH, 27, Falkner Street, Gloucester.
D113	CD	Aldershot D.L.P.	Mr. N. MIKARDO, 49, Elm Grove Road, Farnborough, Hants.
B160	BD	Kirkdale D.L.P.	Mr. F. WHITEHEAD, 84, Langham Street, Liverpool, 4.
B184	BD	Salford West D.L.P.	Mr. J. J. PIERCE, 22, King Street, Irlams o' th' Height, Salford, 6.
L209	CD	Bosworth D.L.P.	Mr. G. DEARING, 24, Glebe Road, Hinckley, Leics.
L216	CD	Grantham D.L.P.	Mr. M. OGDEN, 95a, Westgate, Grantham, Lincs.
L219	CD	Gainsborough D.L.P.	Coun. H. STANSELL, 6, Asquith Street, Gainsborough, Lincs.
D375	CD	Chertsey D.L.P.	Mr. L. C. BRIDGES, 22, Cottimore Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.
C424	SB	Dewsbury D.L.P.	Coun. M. SCARGILL, The Ben Riley Hall, 15, Union Street, Dewsbury, Yorks.
C432	BD	Leeds North D.L.P.	Mr. A. TURNER, 73, Cragside Close, Leeds, 5.
J511	BD	Aberdeen South D.L.P.	Mrs. M. BAXTER, 4, Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen.

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Communications to be addressed to the Labour Party

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A SIGNAL TO OUR PARTY

The Prime Minister's recent speech in the House, giving the end of the German war as a pointer to the date for the break-up of the Coalition Government, is a signal to all political parties.

That signal says—"Get Ready for the Coming General Election."

For the first time since the Parties came together in the Coalition administration, the probable circumstances under which it would be safe to dissolve the great war partnership can be sketched in broad outline.

Speedy victory is still our paramount aim and nothing that we do must in any way conflict with our duty to fight the war to a victorious conclusion.

But the necessary preparations must begin now, in every part of the country, to get our Party ready to fight this coming General Election as a strong, independent force.

It is true to say that all political parties have suffered organisationally and in other ways during the war period. Active members in all areas are in the Services or absorbed in war work. Individual membership has inevitably lagged and lapsed. The Labour Party has suffered no less than the other Parties.

Our bounden duty, therefore, during the next few months is to ensure that all our local Labour Parties and divisional organisations become live centres

of political life, engaged in the many activities which make up the day-to-day work of a great political party.

It is the growing belief of many in the nation that the Labour Party has its greatest days before it. For there is abundant evidence that the trend of opinion in the country and in the Services is moving to the Left. The lessons of the war have convinced millions of our people that far-reaching changes in the structure of our society are needed.

It is the proper business of the Labour Party to canalise this Leftward feeling, this realisation of the need for fundamental social changes, into democratic channels. In the coming months we will have great opportunities, as well as a great responsibility, to build up our Party to new and greater strength.

For this vital task, political organisation is needed. And, as our active Party workers well know, such organisation cannot be brought into being overnight. It involves a great deal of hard, unspectacular work carried on over considerable periods.

If Labour is to play its full part in the crucial days that lie ahead, this work of organisation and preparation must be carried on with consistency, energy and devotion. We are confident that Party members everywhere will not fail in this great task.

An expert on modern publicity methods says—

LET YOUTH DO LOCAL PROPAGANDA JOBS

By BRIAN BARKER

During the next few months it will be the job of most Parties to bring their propaganda methods into line with the changed balance of population in the constituencies. We shall have to find out how far the traditional methods of political propaganda fit the new circumstances. We may have to modify and adapt some of our methods to meet the altered habits and outlook of the electorate. We may have to supplement the old forms with new devices. We may have to find new ways into the public mind.

All this means hard thinking and sound planning at the centre as well as at the circumference. Headquarters will meet the requirements of the Parties for propaganda material and will broadly indicate any new methods regarded as necessary, but only the Parties themselves can solve the local problems of making effective use of that material and of adapting the new methods to the local circumstances.

It is going to be fairly essential that most Parties should have a corps of members who have studied the propaganda problems of their constituencies in the light of the changes in population and in social balance, and who are ready to develop any new techniques which come along. This corps of local propaganda "technicians" can best be created in the Propaganda Committee.

It is most important, therefore, that a Propaganda Committee should find its proper place in the machinery of the local Parties. And that place should neither be too high—nor yet too insignificant. During the period immediately before the Election, the effectiveness of a Party's propaganda will depend upon the efficiency of its total organisation. A Propaganda Committee which has drawn so heavily on the key members of the Party that it has impaired other aspects of organisation has proved a liability rather than a propaganda asset.

The Propaganda Committee should be the place where the propaganda

thinking and planning of the Party is done. It should contain one or two key members of the Party and it should be recruited, not necessarily from busy members of the main committees, but from the best available people among the total membership. It should call on people who have qualifications in journalism or advertising, but it should not overweight its ranks with too many "experts." It should also be borne in mind that propaganda work has a strong element of appeal for the younger members and that this Committee is a useful method of drawing them into active Party work. The total membership of the Committee should not be more than six or eight.

The Propaganda Committee should have freedom to work out its schemes and proposals in complete detail before bringing them to the governing body of the Party for approval. Once that approval has been given, the Propaganda Committee should be given control of the necessary resources and membership to carry out its schemes.

The Committee should be systematic in its meetings and in its procedure. It should meet at fairly short and regular intervals—even though at first there may not appear to be much on the agenda. It is astonishing how many schemes and suggestions come up when people begin to think and talk about propaganda. The Committee need not keep formal minutes, but it should keep a record of every good suggestion, even though it may not be possible to act upon it in the immediate future.

Finally, the Propaganda Committee should never make a public appearance. A meeting, for example, should never be advertised as under the auspices of "The Propaganda Committee of the Blankfield Labour Party." The Propaganda Committee, so to speak, must do all its good deeds by stealth and find satisfaction in anonymity. It can afford to publicise everything—except its own existence.

AROUND THE PARTIES—

Smallest County's Big Revival

A solid revival of organisation and activity has taken place in the Rutland and Stamford Division. New contacts are being formed and old ones re-created. Excellent contacts are being made through the branches of the Agricultural Workers' Union, and a high spot was reached, recently, by a well-organised Agricultural Policy Conference at Stamford. This rural constituency is only one of many in the East Midlands, in which magnificent help is being rendered by the Organisers of the Agricultural Workers' Union.

ALL-IN CONCERT

On Whitemoor Housing Estate in Nottingham, Labour Party organisation was absent. The Divisional Party decided to arrange a concert-meeting. 700 invitations were delivered to homes on the estate. 150 citizens attended, and in the *space provided on each invitation card* wrote their names and addresses. These persons were then visited and invited to join the Party. When 45 had joined up, a Party meeting was called. 32 of the 45 attended and elected Officers and a Committee. The total cost of this idea of getting people together was about £5 and Nottingham West now has another unit of Party organisation which is proving capable of doing good work.

M.P.'s LETTER

In the Bassetlaw Division members are asked to hand in the names and addresses of a friend to whom the Labour M.P., F. J. Bellenger, can write and invite to join the Party. The persons handing in the names and addresses must undertake to visit the prospective member within three days of the M.P.'s letter being posted. This co-operation between Labour M.P., Agent, and member, is leading to the enrolment of a good number of excellent workers, and the letter from Mr. Bellenger is appreciated even by those who do not join the Party immediately. This selective method of getting new members is worth copying by other Parties.

BEATING THE BLITZ

The Sparkbrook Divisional Labour Party, which of all the Midland constituencies suffered the most severely in the Blitz, losing half its members in one Ward by enemy action, has again come to life with a vengeance. An intensive development campaign with open-air meetings and discussion has taken place for the last four months and Ward Parties have been re-organised and the campaign culminated in a social gathering held on October 28th, when over 450 people were in attendance at this welcome gathering for new and old members of the Party. The Regional Officer addressed the gathering and it is hoped that the selection of a Parliamentary Candidate during the next month will be followed by further events of this nature.

GOING UP

Swindon reports that its membership to date is 1663, an increase of 643 over last year, and 163 above the target of the year. Only five sections out of fourteen have failed to reach the target fixed for them. Highworth for many years has had an average membership of 24; has now reached 44, or 16 below the target. Double this number of members could be obtained, but for the distances over which a canvass must take place.

PERSONAL TOUCH

During the Parliamentary Recess, the Summer Campaign took rather an unorthodox form. The Member visited 1,260 homes in remote villages. He made eight calls on blocks of Aged Miners' Homes. In twenty-three towns and villages he had impromptu street corner meetings, and conversations and discussions with him took place in Miners' Institutes and Social Halls. Although public meetings were arranged, the main object in the campaign has been "personal contact."

(Continued on next page)

AROUND THE PARTIES—Continued

York Forms League of Youth

After several years of depression York Labour Party is showing signs of a revival.

Recently, J. Corlett, Ph.D., B.Sc., was selected as prospective Parliamentary candidate. Well-known and respected locally, he made his first public appearance since his selection at a public meeting attended by over 400, when the collection came to over £7.

An active League of Youth has been formed, and the Party has set up a Development Committee which is beginning to recruit new members and re-establish Ward organisation.

Two dances held during the past few weeks have realised a profit of over £60 and the Party is considering other means of building up a strong Election Fund.

RECONSTITUTED

Knebworth Labour Party was reconstituted at a meeting organised by the North Herts. Labour Party and addressed by Mr. W. J. Beck, of Letchworth.

Proposing the reconstitution, Mr. W. Mitchell Gordon, former chairman of the Walkern Labour Party, who presided, said it was the first time in 38 years that he had resided in a district of the British Isles where there was not a Labour Party.

Mr. E. J. Rogers was elected provisional chairman, and Mrs. F. L. Burgess agreed to act as secretary. Messrs. H. Casey, D. Robinson and A. W. Allsopp, and Mrs. Allsopp and Miss Shaw were appointed members of a provisional committee to build up the membership of the Party.

Membership forms were distributed by the divisional secretary, Mr. L. A. Freeman, of Letchworth.

ONE-DAY SCHOOLS

The education of active Party members in Socialist principles has been regarded as an important part of our activities by the Regional Council.

In the last two years the Council has

been directly responsible for the organisation of nearly 60 one-day schools as well as many delegate conferences.

Unlike conferences, which are usually held in the bigger centres, most of the day schools have been held in the smaller towns and villages. Attendances have varied from a couple of dozen to a couple of hundred, though the educational value of a school cannot be measured by the number of those attending.

Realising the value of this form of activity, not a few local Labour Parties are now arranging their own one-day schools. Another important development is the organisation of local discussion groups. Many Parties have arranged a regular series of meetings at which local speakers open the discussion on some aspect of Labour policy. The Speaker's Panel, published by the Regional Council this year, has been of great use in providing capable discussion group leaders.

All these activities are additional to the numerous conferences, day and week-end schools organised by the women's movement.

Latterly, attention has been directed to election preparations, and classes for intending Agents are to be followed by a series of one-day schools for Election "key workers."

NEW PARTIES

Parties which have kept in being (and they are the overwhelming majority) during the politically dead days of the War, are expanding and new Parties have been and continue to be formed in places where the old organisation became extinguished. New Parties reported during the month are:—Montrose, Forfar, Elgin, Forbes, Selkirk, Monifieth, Campbeltown, and Troon beyond the Border; and Sudbury, Headington, Cheadle, Hulme, and Elstree in the South. May all these places become vigorous centres in the progress to our Socialist goal.



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FACING UP TO "ANY QUESTIONS"

A series of articles to help platform aspirants by Harold Croft

(IV) Questions at Meetings

To the new speaker the prospect of having to face questions is rather terrifying. At the same time it is to be assumed that a novice will have been sensible enough to prepare a simple address based on general ideas, or one which, if specialised, is based on his sure knowledge or experience. He can then have a reasonable expectation that he may have limited any average questions to within his personal scope.

He can put up a brave front by keeping in mind one or two of the following points, especially the first one:—

(1) Keep good-humoured and patient, whatever the ordeal. It will put you well with the audience and save you from the torments of self-abasement after the meeting is over.

(2) As a beginner, make your answers brief and simple, this of itself tends to make further questions reciprocally brief and simple.

(3) You will find that most questions are sufficiently related to some aspects of your speech that you can manage to give some sort of reply, and you can, if appropriate, even reiterate a point of your address.

(4) Odd questions of detail may not be too worrying if your subject has been general. Should the question be tantalising to you, you can generally manage to relate it to the ideas of your speech and give an oblique answer, especially if a direct answer is not possible. C. E. M. Joad on the B.B.C. Brains Trust has made famous a good opening for the interrogated person . . . "Well . . . it depends on what you mean by so and so."

(5) If a question is really awkward for you, keep your head. Something may flash into your mind. On the other hand one or two things may happen. The chairman may whisper a key point to you, or a member of the audience noting your momentary pause may adroitly break in with a supplementary question that gives the answer but offers you the chance of confirming and adding to it. If you really are sunk, you can always be courageous and say you don't know the precise answer. This is better than making a fool of yourself by

trying to give an answer that reveals your abysmal ignorance of the point. One earnest young speaker got the delighted and sympathetic cheers of an audience by saying to a questioner "I know there is a good answer to that question, but I have forgotten it." Sometimes a breathing moment can be gained by asking the questioner to repeat his question or to make it clearer what he wants to know. This on occasion relieves tension; the questioner proceeds to answer his point or sometimes shows he does not quite know himself what he is getting at.

In general it can be said that really awkward questions happen very rarely. The tyro need not feel too overwhelmed if he is caught out, as even the most celebrated speakers have been badly caught out by questions on their own special subjects. George Lansbury, after addressing a large demonstration was once completely stumped by a straightforward question. He confessed that his mind was a blank at the moment as to what the answer was. He had to turn to the members on the platform and ask them. Someone gave him the answer and he handed it on to the questioner.

Answering questions calls for instant ordering of facts or ideas in the mind and capacity to express them readily, but it is a faculty that comes and grows by experience.

The range of questions in any one sphere is not so extensive as would be ordinarily expected. Questions separate into groups and experienced speakers can generally draw upon a pattern of answers in their minds which essentially cover most points.

For the beginner allowances are made. No one expects him or her to be all-knowing. If the new speaker is courteous, abstains from glibbing or sarcasm and avoids mere slickness, the innate instinct of an audience is to help him. Often a member of the audience will ask a leading question to give the speaker a chance to shine. The new speaker may feel assured that his capacity for answering questions will improve. There is a way of answering questions and it comes to one, after a time.

(To be continued.)

A Frank Talk to the Party on—

Capturing the New Generation

By L. H. PEARMAINE, National Secretary, Transport and General Workers' Union

In my previous article I indicated how, parallel with the development of scientific management of industry for efficiency there was going on a training and an experience of the workers in administrative control problems through their workshop committees, etc.

The workers of this newer generation are becoming a different type from past generations. They know they are individual cogs in a vast organisation of war industry, but they have an insight into their individual part in the pattern of their associated work and appreciate how it fits into the final product for the national war effort. All this is having profound psychological effects on the workers in many industries, and in the post-war period they will not be content to be forced back into acquiescence in a servile routine of individual toil to serve mere capitalist profit-making ends. They will seek more collective participation in the administrative ordering and control of their work in industry and there will be growing enlightenment among them that efficiency in industry is necessary if large-scale social reconstruction is to be carried out for the benefit of the people generally.

Likewise the millions of serving men and women have been through a very different experience than was the case with service men and women in the last war. They have been a part of the greatest war machine history has known and the organisation of the machine has generally been acknowledged as super-excellent. It has been so, not alone because of scientific weapons and munitions, but because of an attitude that the individual man and woman mattered. They have been participants in a careful training which brought out their qualities and stimulated initiative. They have necessarily had to submit to discipline, but they have had a realisation of what their part was in relation to military and naval plans and objectives.

Masses of these men and women, like their industrial co-workers, will not come back to dumb acquiescence as

mere "hands" in industry of the post-war period. This new generation of men and women who emerge from the war-time period will have greatly increased alertness and understanding about life and affairs. They may not all be articulate about it; nevertheless, they will have their ideas, and will expect large-scale industrial and social planning in the peace years.

Both the Labour Party and the Trade Unions will have to exercise imaginative foresight about the attitude of these workers and their changing conditions and will need to make their appeals for their support in a convincing and resolute way. The newer generation will form a considerable and growing part of the post-war electorate. On the Trade Union and industrial side it will see the results of increasing administrative control of its working conditions and of technical and economic efficiency. Likewise it will want to see a dynamic and efficiency quality on the political side if it is to be fully mobilised for support of the Labour Party.

As Socialists we must grasp opportunity with both hands and by virility of purpose and by the practicability of our programme draw this new generation into the Socialist orbit. We must be assiduous in getting them as political contracting-in members of the Trade Unions. We must be fearless in presenting the Socialist policy to them as being the logical follow-on of their own endeavours to achieve more and more administrative control of their own industrial conditions. We must make them feel that our plans for social reconstruction are not mere political schemes but are to be social developments in which they are linked as citizens and workers and participants.

Thus making the newer generation feel that our principles and policies fit to their new experience and attitudes we shall be able to get them in large numbers into the active work of the Labour Party and add a new dynamic to our appeals to the workers in general for support and votes for Labour.

Continuing the "Brains or Brass" Controversy

IT'S NOT MONEY BUT "MANDATES"

says JACK CUTTER

I am tempted to heave a couple of bricks at D. F. Alger's article, headed "Money, Merit and Candidatures" in last month's "Organiser." After reading it one might be inclined to think Selection Conferences in the Labour Party were a series of contests between Brains and Brass, with brass usually in the winning corner.

In my time I have been in very close contact with 128 D.L.P.s and attended Selection Conferences in most of them. I recall a single occasion when financial backing was insisted upon. I recall quite a number of instances in which willingness to contribute to the election expenses was actually a liability to the nominees concerned and prevented their section, usually because of the clumsy and tactless manner of announcing the circumstance.

In the General Committee of every D.L.P. I have yet met there is always a substantial proportion of the delegates whose sympathies are with the nominee with the lightest pocket, provided there is approximate equality of ability. Indeed, there is a type of delegate who will deliberately support the most hard-up nominee as a matter of what he or she believes to be principle. More than once I have seen the selection, which looked like a piece of cake for Nominee A, who had both ability and financial backing, go to Nominee B, who had little of one and none of the other, but who was astute enough to recognise the existence of that type of delegate and turn his poverty into a vote-securing asset.

If you were to ask me my opinion as to the main reasons for the selection of unsuitable candidates I would say (a) Mandated Votes and (b) irresponsible delegates.

The business of a Selection Conference is to interview the nominees, decide which of them is the best man or woman to be Labour's standard-bearer in that constituency and to ballot accordingly. Where the man-

dated vote is permitted and delegates are instructed how they shall vote BEFORE the Selection Conference, independent judgment becomes impossible. Indeed, in such circumstances a Selection Conference becomes an unnecessary farce and the votes might just as well be sent by post. I have consistently claimed that the mandated vote system is contrary to the Rules of the Labour Party, is democracy gone haywire and should not be countenanced by any self-respecting Party.

Under the heading of "irresponsible" I class those delegates who cast their votes for or against a nominee purely on momentary issues without due regard to the requirements of the Party at the election or to the needs of the Parliamentary Party in the post-war Parliament. For instance, I have seen a nominee collect a number of votes because he took an exceedingly poor view of the electoral truce (without which he would certainly not have been a nominee) and made a dirty crack at Labour Members in the Government. The type of delegate who consistently opposes every conference decision and wouldn't eat his breakfast if he thought it was going to agree with him, always votes for that type of nominee.

I am quite sure that financial considerations are by no means the important factor Mr. Alger makes them out to be. The possession of money without other and more important qualifications is, in nine out of ten cases, recognised by D.L.P.s as the worst possible reason for nomination.

I am not much concerned about the nominees who possess financial resources. It is probably to their credit that, having achieved economic security, they have remained or become Socialists and they usually have useful and specialised qualifications

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AROUND THE REGIONS—

Membership Jumps in North

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE

During the course of the war a number of Divisional Labour Parties became inactive, as a result of war circumstances, but we are now in a position to report that in each of the 77 constituencies the Divisional Labour Parties are functioning; indeed, in some cases, organisation is as good as, or better than, in pre-war years. Membership over the whole area has increased from 36,000 in 1941 to 42,000 last year, and at the end of this year will show another considerable increase. Consideration has been given to a further membership drive next year and, in the event of no national drive, a further regional effort will be made in conjunction with other General Election preparations.

Prospective Parliamentary candidates have been reviewed. The 77 constituencies in this area return 82 members to the House and the Party has a total of 67 Members of Parliament and prospective Parliamentary candidates already in the field. Of the remaining 15 constituencies, 11 are actively engaged in securing their prospective Parliamentary candidate. Some other changes are anticipated and are having attention.

A special Regional Conference on Policy and Election Preparations is being held in the Houldsworth Hall, Manchester, on the morning and afternoon of January 13th. This conference is to be followed by three election preparation schools to be held in Manchester, Liverpool and Preston, to which each Constituency Labour Party is being invited to send its key election workers. Each school will have five Saturday afternoon sessions. The subjects covered will include Party Organisation and Membership, the Election Agent and his Staff, Election Organisation, Committee Rooms, Canvass, Literature and Meetings, Election Finance, Forms and Returns. These schools will be taken by practising agents in the North-West Region.

WEST MIDLANDS REGION

An "Election Preparation" Conference, organised by the Regional Council was held in Birmingham on October 28th, when Mr. Morgan Phillips spoke on

"Election Policy" and Mr. G. R. Shepherd on "Election Preparation." The conference was attended by 260 delegates and was the most representative conference yet organised in the region. Delegates overflowed into the passageway and steps of the hall and the questions and discussion revealed a spirit of complete unanimity and keen enthusiasm to greatly increase Labour's representation in the West Midlands at the next election.

On November 4th an area conference was held at Wolverhampton addressed by Jim Griffiths, M.P., on the question of "Social Insurance." Two hundred and fifty delegates attended this conference, which is the first delegate conference which it has been possible to arrange in Wolverhampton for over four years and its unqualified success has already brought requests for further conferences to be arranged.

The first of a series of Day Schools on "The Conduct of Elections" was held at Oxford on November 11th, when the Regional Officers were the lecturers and 60 key officers and workers were in attendance.

SOUTH WALES

On the 21st October a Mass Delegate Conference was held in Cardiff under the auspices of the Regional Council of Labour for the purpose of discussing the future of industry within the region. Nine hundred and fifty delegates were present.

The speakers at the conference were Mr. Herbert Morrison, M.P., Home Secretary, who dealt with the general aspect, and Mr. Jim Griffiths, M.P., a member of the National Executive Committee, who dealt with the Welsh aspect.

On November 4th a special delegate meeting of the Regional Council was held for the purpose of discussing the kind of preparation required for post-war elections. Mr. Morgan Phillips and Mr. R. T. Windle were present and gave the conference very valuable information. There was a very keen discussion and delegates left the meeting not only better informed but inspired to become even more active within the Movement.

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Around the Regions—Continued

A meeting has also been held recently of election agents and constituency party secretaries to agree on the essential steps to be taken in order to get the machinery ready for post-war elections.

It was further agreed to recommend the South Wales Regional Council of Labour to take steps to set up a Central Fund to be used for the assistance of rural constituencies.

EAST MIDLANDS

The Regional Council has initiated an excellent series of Area Conferences for Trade Unionists. Every Trade Union branch within a given area is invited to appoint at least six representatives to a conference addressed by the officers of the Regional Council and, in addition, usually by a Trade Union leader associated with the major industry in the district.

Whilst political work amongst the industrial workers is recognised to be of paramount importance the East Midlands Regional Council is also concerned to attract the technical and professional worker to the Party. As a means to this end steps are being taken to establish local Fabian Societies in those centres where such societies could be helpful. In Nottingham 190 likely interested persons were invited to a meeting in a well-known hotel. Fifty attended and joined the Nottingham and District Fabian Society.

The Regional Conference at Nottingham University to discuss both election policy and electoral preparations for the next general election was attended at both sessions by nearly 300 delegates. Morgan Phillips, secretary-designate, and R. T. Windle, assistant national agent, opened, and the keenness shown by delegates led to nearly all the discussion time being taken up by valuable questions and answers. Delegates returned to their organisations with very clear statements of "the Party line," and the organisational work to be done *before* the General Election. Area and constituency consultations are now being arranged throughout the

region to deal with the problem in detail and the full-time agents within the Region have agreed to assist the District Organiser by taking classes of election workers on "The Organisation of an Election."

SCOTLAND

Baillie John Lang, of Motherwell, Scottish Organiser of the Iron and Steel Trades Association, is the new Chairman of the Scottish Council, with Mrs. Jean Mann, housing expert and well-known propagandist, as vice-chairman.

It is good that two people with practical experience in both local and national elections should hold the chief offices in the Scottish Party during the year which will probably see the resumption of local elections as well as the general election.

The winter syllabus of the Merchiston Ward (Edinburgh) Labour Association contains an interesting "get together" idea. Debates have been arranged between members of the Association and those of other Ward Committees on topical aspects of Party policy. At the moment the "fixtures" are all in the Merchiston Ward, but there is no reason why the visiting wards should not arrange a return fixture, thus doubling the effectiveness of the idea.

Candidatures, agencies and electoral ground work continue to be the chief subjects for the attention of the Scottish Office and are likely to be so for some time. But between times other matters, such as the appointment of Labour J.P.s, get a look in. Only one out of every 12 Scottish J.P.s is Labour, a proportion grossly out of balance, as is generally acknowledged.

It is good to be able to report that the first all-Scotland Labour Women's School, held last month across the Firth of Clyde in Dunoon, was highly successful educationally and perhaps occasionally over-boisterous socially. The arrangements were first-class and the lectures were practical and so much appreciated that repeat schools are being requested from all the airts.

LIST OF D.L.P. ALTERATIONS (November)—Continued

Index No.	Description.	Name of Organisation.	Present Secretary and Address.
J523	SB	Dumbarton and Clyde-bank D.L.P.	Mr. J. H. DAVIES, 86, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, Glasgow.
J536	CD	Western Isles D.L.P.	Mr. N. MONTGOMERY, M.A., B.Sc., Laxdale School House, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

Testimonial to Herbert Drinkwater

With the September issue "The Labour Organiser" passed from the control of The National Union of Labour Organisers and Election Agents to the Labour Party. In 1920 Herbert produced the first edition of the "L.O." and for 24 years he has acted as its Editor and Manager. In the first issue, writing the introduction to its readers, he wrote: "That the object of this Journal is the advancement of the Labour cause, with special reference to the improvement of the Party's political machinery." We think we can safely assert that under his guidance, that object has been faithfully adhered to. We believe that countless readers of the "L.O." have benefited by our comrade's writings and advice. The amount of work put into the "Organiser" over a very long period cannot be described in words, but reaches a total second to none in the long history of a Movement built on self-sacrificing toil.

We feel that we owe a debt of gratitude to our comrade, and we are therefore making an appeal to Party Organisations and readers to contribute to a "Testimonial Fund," that the N.U. of Labour Organisers and Election Agents are sponsoring. We would esteem it a favour if Party Secretaries would read this appeal at their next meeting. We hope to make the presentation during the period of the Party Annual Conference, in December.

All donations should be sent to R. H. Ley, 84, Stow Hill, Newport, Mon.

(Signed) CLAUDE DENScombe,
Chairman.

R. H. LEY, Joint Secretary.

AGENTS APPROVED

The following agents were approved by the N.E.C. at its meeting on 30th October, 1944:—

YORK: Keighley.—Mr. Walter Brown, c/o Mr. W. Smith, 207, Queen's Road, Ingroe, Keighley.

DUMBARTON: Clydebank.—Mr. J. H. Davies, 86, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank.

IT'S NOT MONEY BUT "MANDATES"

(Continued from page 9)

other than their bank balances. It may be something approaching heresy to say so, but I am more concerned about the quality of some of the nominees produced by affiliated and Party Organisations. A very good case could be made out for the establishment of a standard which had to be reached as a condition of nomination by every nominee irrespective of their financial position.

FREE TRAVEL?

One prospective Parliamentary candidate has also replied to the article—Miss Doris W. Mobbs, of Wimbledon Park, London, S.W.19. She writes:

"Of D. F. Alger's suggestions, I think that only numbers 2, 4 and 5 should be considered seriously. The effect of the proposals outlined in numbers 1 and 3 that a fund should be created to give financial backing on the one hand to candidates specially selected by the National Executive Committee, or on the other to all poor candidates would be to condone the principle that financial status should be taken into account when selecting a candidate.

If the majority of the Parties enjoyed a healthy financial position, it is likely that this problem would rarely arise, and the situation to aim at, therefore, is such an improvement in the organisation of Parties that an increase in financial resources would inevitably result. Both Head Office and local Parties should give consideration to this matter.

Possibilities of getting the Government to arrange some form of assistance in addition to that already granted during the electoral period might also be worthy of consideration. Why, for example, shouldn't candidates be granted a certain amount of free travelling when it is undertaken in connection with responsibilities connected with their candidature?"

UNION NOTES

Lectures by experts on various branches of political activity are a frequent additional feature of the bi-monthly meetings of the London District, which are held at the London Labour Party Offices, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1.

Office-bearers are:—Chairman, W. H. Jacob; Secretary, A. E. Fenna, 35, Trelawn Road, Leyton, E.10; Financial Secretary, R. Montford, J.P., C.C., Wellingborough.

TOTTENHAM'S "GOT SOME-THING"

That bright little publication, North Tottenham Co-operative and Labour News Bulletin, edited by Claude Denscombe, local Labour and Co-op. agent, is well worthy of study and emulation by other areas.

Last month, for instance, it carried Bob Morrison's speech in the Commons on the London housing situation, which, in view of the interest in the question and in these days of restricted Parliamentary reports, is performing a valuable service indeed. It also had other interesting articles and a host of information and gossip on local Labour and Co-op. matters.

Carry on the good work, Claude!

CANDIDATURES WITHDRAWN

ESSEX: East Ham North.—Ald. T. I. Lethaby, J.P.

LANCS.: Stretford.—Mrs. Frances Kerby.

LEICS.: Bosworth.—Mr. Mark Auliffe.

NORTHUMBERLAND: Hexham.—Mr. W. Sexton (deceased).

NOTTS.: Central.—Mr. G. de Freitas. Newark.—Mr. A. W. Sharman.

SUSSEX: Chichester.—Mrs. E. A. Weston.

WILTS.: Salisbury.—Mr. N. Wiggins.

YORKS.: Scarborough.—Mr. T. Hoperton. Sheffield, Central.—Major Harry Morris.

AYRSHIRE: Kilmarnock.—Mr. James Crawford.

MORE CANDIDATES ENDORSED

Still they come! Here is a list of additional candidates endorsed by the N.E.C. at its meeting on 30th October, 1944:—

DEVON: Plymouth, Drake.—Mr. H. M. Medland, 19, Woodland Road, Bristol, Glos. D.L.P. Totnes.—Mr. John Stone, Cleeve, Buckeridge Road, Teignmouth, Devon. D.L.P.

DURHAM: Darlington.—Mr. D. R. Hardman, 34, Sedley Taylor Road, Cambridge, Cambs. D.L.P.

ESSEX: Saffron Walden.—Ald. S. S. Wilson, 64, Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden, Essex. D.L.P.

HANTS.: Basingstoke.—Mrs. E. A. Weston, Crossborough Place, Basingstoke, Hants. D.L.P.

HERTS.: Hertford.—Mr. Lynton Scutts, 11, Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford, Herts. D.L.P.

KENT: Tonbridge.—Miss Vera Dart, O.B.E., 144, Rivermead Court, London, S.W.6. D.L.P.

LANCS.: Bolton.—Mr. John Lewis, "Leonex Works," Hythe Road, Willesden, N.W.10. D.L.P. Mr. John H. Jones, 336, Liverpool Road, Irlam, nr. Manchester. B.I.S. & K.T.A. Heywood and Radcliffe.—Mr. J. E. Whittaker, 121, Rosehill Road, Burnley, Lancs. D.L.P. Ormskirk.—Mr. James Harold Wilson, 19, Fitzwilliam House, The Green, Richmond, Surrey. D.L.P.

SOMERSET: Bath.—Mrs. D. H. Archibald, The Nuffield Laboratories, The Eye Hospital, Oxford. D.L.P.

STAFFS.: Burton.—Mr. A. W. Lyne, 52, Greenfield Road, Northampton. N.U.B. & S.O.

WORCS.: Dudley.—Lieut.-Col. G. E. G. Wigg, 117, Newcastle Road, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent. D.L.P. Kidderminster.—Mr. Louis Tolley, 25, Larches Road, Kidderminster. D.L.P.

YORKSHIRE: York.—Dr. John Corlett, 169, Mill Road, York. D.L.P.

MERIONETHSHIRE: Mr. Huw Morris-Jones, M.A., 3, Beulah Square, Caernarvon. D.L.P.

LANARKSHIRE: Glasgow, Kelyingrove.—Mr. John L. Williams, 99, Hill Street, Glasgow, C.3. D.L.P.

MIDLOTHIAN: North Edinburgh.—Mr. E. G. Willis, 161, Craighleith Hill Avenue, Edinburgh 4. D.L.P.

Co-operative Party candidate running in association with the Labour Party:

CHESHIRE: Wallasey.—Mr. Thomas Findley, 1, Stavordale Road, Moreton, Wirral.

THE WAR-TIME ELECTION ACTS

(Continued)

CONTINUATION OF PARLIAMENT

While the emergency conditions of a seven-and-a-half weeks' election period prevail, the Proclamation of His Majesty summoning a new Parliament, may defer the day of dissolution of the current Parliament to a day not later than the day on which the register is published. (Sec. 3 and Sec. 34, 1943 Act.) These provisions are designed to limit as much as possible the period during which the country is without a Parliament.

ORDER OF NAMES IN REGISTER

S.R. & O. 900. 2.—(1) The local authority may determine the order to be adopted for the names in any section of the register, but subject to any such determination the names in each section shall be arranged either in street order, or in alphabetical order, or partly in one way and partly in another, according to the order adopted for the corresponding parts of the 1939 register:

Provided that (subject to any such determination) the names in any section or part of a section of the service register may, if the registration officer sees fit, be arranged in alphabetical order though not so arranged in the corresponding part of the 1939 register.

CLAIMS AND OBJECTIONS

(Regulations 9, 10, 11)

After the publication of any of the electors' lists on the 20th day after the initiation of the election, and within the time allowed, a person may send to the R.O.

- (a) a claim to have his name entered in that list, or, if it is already entered therein, to have it entered in a different place or manner;
- (b) if his name is entered in that or any other of those lists, an objection to the inclusion in that list of the name of any person, or to the place or manner in which the name of any person is entered therein.

If the R.O. is of opinion that a claim or objection cannot succeed then, if he sees fit, he may, as soon as may be after receiving the claim or objection, send to the person making the claim or objection a notice stating—

- (i) that he is of that opinion; but

- (ii) that it is open to that person, not later than the third day after the date of the said notice, to make to him representations in writing in support of the claim or objection,

and, where he sends a notice under this paragraph, shall take no further steps in relation to the claim or objection unless and until, from representations so made, he sees reason to revise his opinion.

The R.O. shall keep a list of claims and objections open to inspection and shall send a notice to claimants and objectors, subject to above provision, of the time and place at which he will consider the cases.

(2) On the consideration of a claim, the claimant shall be entitled to appear and be heard in support of his claim, and any person whose name is entered in any electors list for the election and who objects to the claim, and any other person who appears to the registration officer to be interested, shall be entitled to appear and be heard.

(3) On the consideration of an objection, the person making the objection and the person with respect to whom it is made, and any other person who appears to the registration officer to be interested, shall be entitled to appear and be heard.

(4) Any person entitled by this regulation to appear may appear either in person or by any other person, other than counsel, on his behalf.

There is no appeal from the decision of the R.O. under the present emergency regulations.

The type of form for making claims or objections is shown as Form B in the third schedule to the Order.

PROXIES

(Act 1943, Sec. 9, 18 and Second Sch.; S.R. & O. 900, Pt. 2 and Third Sch.)

Second Schedule, 1943, Act. (7) A person shall not be appointed a proxy unless he is a British subject of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity.

(8) A voter shall not appoint more than one person as proxy to vote on his behalf in the same constituency, and in any case not more than two persons.

(12) A person shall not vote as proxy unless he is a British subject of full age and not subject to any legal incapacity.

(13) A person shall not vote as proxy at an election in any constituency on behalf of more than two voters of whom that person is neither the husband, wife, parent, grandparent, brother or sister.

PROXIES FOR CIVILIAN ELECTORS

Civilian electors who desire to appoint a proxy must apply on Form B to have their names put on the Absent Voters List not later than the 27th day after the initiation of the election and must also enclose at the same time a Proxy Application Form C. This Proxy Form C requires similar information as per the above card, together with the signature of a witness to whom the elector is known. (Forms are in Part III, of the Third Sch. 900.)

The R.O. will send a notice to the proxy appointed and if no notice has been received by the R.O. within five days, that the person refuses or cannot act as proxy, he shall forthwith send or deliver a proxy paper to the person so nominated.

The proxy paper will only remain in force for the Parliamentary election pending at the time of issue.

A proxy paper can be cancelled by the original elector.

PROXIES FOR SERVICE ELECTORS

Members of the Services and of the Merchant Navy and war workers abroad appoint proxies directly by filling in the reverse side of their Declaration Cards in Part 2.

Note that the appointing of a proxy does not prejudice the right of those members who are in the United Kingdom at the time of an election from exercising the postal vote if they wish, or, alternatively, of voting directly at a polling station if happening to be in their constituency on polling day, if not a postal voter.

A proxy paper issued on application of a service voter remains in effect so long as that voter remains entitled to appoint a proxy by virtue of the same service declaration.

PART 2.

PROXY APPOINTMENT.

(Services)

(If you desire to appoint a proxy to vote for you in your absence, fill in this form.)

I HEREBY CANCEL ANY PREVIOUS PROXY APPOINTMENT MADE BY ME
AND APPOINT AS MY PROXY:—

Names of First Choice.....

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Postal Address of First Choice.....

Relationship, if any, of First Choice to Elector.....

OR IF HE OR SHE IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO ACT

Names of Second Choice.....

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Postal Address of Second Choice.....

Relationship, if any, of Second Choice to Elector.....

Signed.....

(To be continued)

Labour Party Publication List

Leaflet No. 12.—Workmen's Compensation

Price, carriage paid: 8/- per 1,000 copies.

" No. 10.—Your Victory—Membership Leaflet.

" No. 11.—A Friend Knocks at Your Door.

" No. 13.—A Word to the Trade Unionist.

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